

Message Text

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FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT WASHINGTON POST EDITORIAL, WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 10 "BITING THE PALESTINIAN BULLET."

2. FRANKLY, WE DON'T KNOW WHETHER JIMMY CARTER WILL
MANAGE TO 1) INDUCE THE PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT TO ACCEPT
THE RIGHT AS WELL AS THE FACT OF ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE AND
2) PERSUADE ISRAEL TO ACCEPT THE PALESTINIANS AS A
NEGOTIATING PARTNER AND AS A PEOPLE ALSO DESERVING A
"HOMELAND." THE DIFFICULTIES WERE IMMENSE AND OBVIOUS
EVEN BEFORE CYRUS VANCE WENT TO THE MIDEAST--SO MUCH SO
THAT MANY FELT THE BEST COURSE WAS TO DUCK THE PROBLEM
AND LOOK INSTEAD FOR MORE INTERIM AGREEMENTS. BUT THE
ADMINISTRATION DECIDED TO BITE THE BULLET. WE COMMEND
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THEM. THE OVERRIDING NEED IS TO DRAW ISRAELIS AND
PALESTINIANS INTO MUTUAL RECOGNITION. EITHER YOU TRY TO
SOLVE A PROBLEM OR YOU DON'T.

3. THE ADMINISTRATION EVIDENTLY COUNTS ON "MODERATE"
ARAB STATES TO HELP DELIVER THE PALESTINE LIBERATION
ORGANIZATION, WHICH, FOR ALL ITS FAILINGS, REMAINS THE

ONLY VIABLE PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION; IT IS CHIEFLY FOR

THE UNITED STATES TO DELIVER ISRAEL. THE MODERATES DO SEEM TO HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS. WHETHER THEY HAVE MADE ENOUGH TO WIN FOR THE PLO, RIGHT NOW, EITHER THE START OF A DIRECT RELATIONSHIP WITH WASHINGTON OR A SEAT AT THE PEACE TABLE, IS DOUBTFUL. THE PLO, IN THE ARAB FASHION, STILL CLINGS TO THE HOPE THAT BY WHISPERS AND FEINTS OFFERED TO THE UNITED STATES IT CAN AVOID COMING FACE TO FACE WITH THE NEED TO ACCEPT ISRAEL. BUT AT THE LEAST, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS GIVEN THE PLO AN OPENING. IF THE PLO CLINGS TO ITS FANTASY OF UNDOING ISRAEL, THEN IT RISKS LOSING THE POSSIBLE REALITY OF A HOME OF ITS OWN. IT'S AN ANGUISHING CHOICE. NO TRUE FRIEND OF THE PALESTINIANS WOULD SPARE THEM THE NEED TO MAKE IT.

4. THE ISRAELIS RESIST NEGOTIATING EVEN WITH A PLO THAT MIGHT ACCEPT U.N. RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338. THEY REJECT THE IDEA OF A SEPARATE PALESTINIAN ENTITY. THIS BRINGS ISRAEL INTO SHARP AND PAINFUL COLLISION WITH THE UNITED STATES. BUT, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF AMERICAN INTERESTS, IT IS A NECESSARY COLLISION. THE ADMINISTRATION'S JUDGMENT--WE SHARE IT--IS THAT THE UNITED STATES CAN BEST ENSURE THE GOOD RELATIONS IT NEEDS WITH ARABS, AND CAN BEST HONOR THE MORAL AND POLITICAL OBLIGATIONS IT HAS FREELY INCURRED TO ISRAELIS, BY PROMOTING UNCLASSIFIED

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ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN COEXISTENCE.

5. TACTICS ARE ALWAYS ARGUABLE. FOR INSTANCE, IN FEBRUARY MR. VANCE SAID THAT THE PLO MUST RENOUNCE ITS "COVENANT'S" VOW TO ERASE ISRAEL, AND NOW HE SAYS ACCEPTANCE OF 242 "IN MY JUDGMENT WOULD REVOKE THE COVENANT., OUR OWN VIEW IS THAT IF THE PALESTINIANS FIND IT IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPROMISE IN PRACTICAL DIPLOMACY WITHOUT ABANDONING THEIR PAPER DREAMS, THEN LET THEM MAKE THE COMPROMISE AND LET THE ISRAELIS SEEK SUBSTANTIAL COMPENSATION FOR THEIR ANXIETY IN OTHER COIN--PERHAPS IN EXTRA SECURITY ADVANTAGES. DIFFERENCES OF PRINCIPLE MUST FIND THEIR TREATMENT, AND TRANSFORMATION, IN NEGOTIATION. THAT IS THE WAY THE UNITED STATES IS TRYING TO GO, AND IT IS THE RIGHT WAY. CHRISTOPHER

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